

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 HONG K 08413 190937Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 CU-02 /090 W

-----111892 191056Z /10

R 190829Z JUL 77

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5822

INFO CINCPAC

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 8413

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, CH, US, KN, KS

SUBJ: LOCAL PRO-PRC PRESS COVERAGE OF KOREAN HELICOPTER INCIDENT

REF: PEKING 1461

1. SUMMARY. ALTHOUGH NCNA COVERAGE OF THE HELICOPTER INCIDENT WAS LOW KEY AND ESCHEWED COMMENTARY (REFTEL), THE LOCAL PRO-PRC PRESS CARRIED THREE COMMENTARIES OVER THE WEEKEND WHICH WERE UNUSUALLY POSITIVE IN THEIR TREATMENT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S HANDLING OF THE SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

2. THREE COMMENTARIES CARRIED IN "TA KUNG PAO" AND THE "NEW EVENING POST" ON JULY 15, 16 AND 18 COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S "CONSCIENTIOUS AND SERIOUS ATTITUDE"

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 HONG K 08413 190937Z

TOWARDS THE INCIDENT. BY ADMITTING THAT THE HELICOPTER OVERFLEW NORTH KOREAN AIRSPACE IN ERROR AND EXPRESSING REGRET, THE PAPERS SAID THE U.S. HAD ACTED RESPONSIBLY, THUS ALLOWING NORTH KOREA TO RESPOND PROMPTLY TO SETTLE THE INCIDENT. THE PAPERS CONTRASTED THIS U.S. ATTITUDE WITH FORMER PRESIDENT FORD'S REACTION AFTER THE DMZ INCIDENT LAST AUGUST, AS WELL AS WITH WHAT WAS CALLED THE "BULLYING"

STYLE OF THE U.S. IN PREVIOUS INCIDENTS IN WHICH THE U.S. ALLEGEDLY BLAMED OTHERS WITHOUT REGARD FOR THE FACTS OF THE CASE. THE U.S. RESPONSE WAS FURTHER COMPARED TO SOVIET "AGGRESSION" THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, PARTICULARLY ITS BULLING OF JAPAN OVER THE MIG-25 INCIDENT.

3. CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION WAS GIVEN IN THE COMMENTARIES TO THE REACTIONS OF VARIOUS USG OFFICIALS TO THE KOREAN INCIDENT. ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF ROGERS AND CIA DIRECTOR TURNER WERE CITED ALONG WITH CONGRESSMAN BAUMAN AS URGING RECONSIDERATION OF THE TROOP WITHDRAWAL POLICY. THE DEFENSE SECRETARY, THE CHAIRMAN OF JCS AND THE PRESIDENT, HOWEVER, WERE REPORTED TO HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO NO CHANGE IN POLICY.

4. COMMENT. THE COMMENTARIES SEEM TO GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO PRAISE THE U.S. ATTITUDE IN THIS INCIDENT AND INDIRECTLY TO LEND THEIR SUPPORT TO PRESIDENT CARTER IN WHAT THEY CALLED A STRUGGLE WITHIN THE USG OVER WITHDRAWAL. IN CONTRAST TO RECENT COMMENTARIES SUPPORTING THE NORTH KOREAN POSITION THAT ALL U.S. FORCES SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN IMMEDIATELY, THESE ARTICLES MERELY EXPRESS OPTIMISM THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WILL WIN THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL BATTLE WITH ITS OPPONENTS AND EVENTUALLY WITHDRAW THE GROUND TROOPS.  
CROSS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, HELICOPTERS, DEATHS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 19-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977HONGK08413  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770268-0215  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** HONG KONG  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770744/aaaablov.tel  
**Line Count:** 86  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** ff6f9a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 PEKING 1461  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1821594  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LOCAL PRO-PRC PRESS COVERAGE OF KOREAN HELICOPTER IN- CIDENT  
**TAGS:** MOPS, CH, US, KN, KS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/ff6f9a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009